



Denis Law Mayor

December 11, 2019

Rob Gannon, General Manager
King County Metro Transit
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
Sent Via Electronic Mail

RE: Support for the Locally Preferred Alternative for the RapidRide I Line bus rapid transit

Dear Mr. Gannon:

This letter is to express City of Renton's support for the Locally Preferred Alternative for the RapidRide I Line bus rapid transit, which will connect the cities of Renton, Kent, and Auburn with faster, more reliable, and more efficient bus service.

The Locally Preferred Alternative will provide numerous benefits to our community. The RapidRide I Line alignment has a strong foundation of population, employment, and activities. The City of Renton recognizes the value that the RapidRide I Line will bring to the community while improving the quality of life for our residents and businesses along the corridor.

We anticipate that the types of improvements included in the Locally Preferred Alternative will increase capacity and efficiency along the corridor as well as improve accessibility. It is anticipated that the RapidRide I Line will also encourage additional redevelopment opportunities along the corridor.

The proposed South Renton Transit Station at Rainier Ave South and South Grady Way will serve as a key connection point to the existing RapidRide F Line, which reaches the Renton Landing/Southport area and comprises a significant portion of Renton's employment base. Most of the traffic volume utilizing the existing South Renton Park & Ride comes from the south, and Renton appreciates Metro's willingness to analyze our request to extend the terminus of the I Line to the north end of the City's regional growth center when ridership demand increases. With a successful RapidRide I Line, the demand for parking at the South Renton Transit Station may be decreased.

Renton commends Metro for conducting an inclusive outreach process for the RapidRide I Line and the Renton-Kent-Auburn Area Mobility Plan (RKAAMP), with continuous attendance at public events, stakeholder interviews, online surveys, regular City Council Committee of the Whole updates, and regular meetings and coordination with City staff. We appreciate Metro's efforts to identify the service needs and access gaps throughout the City through the RKAAMP and the I-Line processes as well as the Renton Access to Transit Study.

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We look forward to continuing our partnership with Metro and the RapidRide team through implementation of the RapidRide I Line in Renton. This new service will be an asset for this community. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Transportation Director Jim Seitz at 425-430-7245 or jseitz@rentonwa.gov.

Sincerely,



Denis Law
Mayor

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cc: Greg McKnight, RapidRide I-Line Program Manager, King County Metro
Diane Carlson, Capital Division Director, King County Metro
Gregg Zimmerman, Public Works Administrator, City of Renton
Jim Seitz, Transportation Director, City of Renton
Vangie Garcia, Transportation Planning and Programming Manager, City of Renton

